



Dooms-Bremo Transmission Line Crossing

PUBLIC SCOPING NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012

We want to hear from you!

Dear Neighbors and Visitors,

The National Park Service (NPS) would like your input on a proposed project affecting Shenandoah National Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Virginia. Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) has requested permits from the NPS to upgrade its existing transmission facilities across approximately 3,000 feet of NPS lands inside the boundaries of Shenandoah National Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail near Waynesboro, Virginia. The proposed project, which is a part of the company's larger effort to upgrade the entire 45 miles of its electrical transmission line between Dooms and Bremo, Virginia, would replace an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) line and associated structures with a new 230-kV line and structures, within the existing right-of-way (ROW). DVP needs permission from the NPS to construct the part of this line that lies on federal lands managed by the NPS. As such, the NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act to analyze the impacts to the environment and park resources that might occur as a result of this portion of the line's upgrade.

At this time, we invite your participation in our effort to analyze potential environmental impacts. To help us "scope out" the important issues, we would like to give you the opportunity to share with us your ideas and concerns about the project so we can take them into consideration. During this scoping period, interested parties may submit written comments online or by mail as described at the end of this newsletter. The scoping period will end on November 30, 2012. Once we have completed the impact analysis, you will also have another opportunity to review and comment on the final document.

We appreciate and look forward to your comments.

Martha Bogle, Superintendent
Shenandoah National Park

Pamela Underhill, Superintendent
Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Background

DVP identified the need to upgrade its 115-kV transmission facilities between Doods and Brems (the “Doods-Brems” line) as part of its regional transmission planning process. According to DVP, demand on the line is increasing, and the upgrade is needed to maintain reliable electrical service and avoid violations of the National Electric Reliability Commission (NERC) standards. The line upgrade is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2014.

The existing Doods-Brems line currently crosses two units of the NPS system: Shenandoah National Park and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. DVP (the applicant) has applied for permits from the NPS to authorize construction and use of park lands for installing the new facilities. A construction permit is needed to authorize construction activities that would occur within the parks as part of the project. A ROW permit to operate and maintain the line is needed for the portion of the line that crosses Shenandoah National Park because the applicant does not own an easement there, so the existing authorization would need to be changed to describe the new facilities.

Therefore, the federal action under consideration in the EA is deciding whether and under what conditions to issue DVP the requested permits. The analysis in the EA will focus on the area where the transmission line crosses NPS land. This will help the NPS to determine the significance of any environmental effects and to examine reasonable alternatives and modifications to assist in meeting its NPS resource management objectives. At this point, the EA will analyze two alternatives: build (action) and no build (no action).

The EA will discuss potential impacts and several topics including:

- biotic communities, including vegetation, wildlife, and wildlife habitat
- visitor use and experience
- soundscapes
- scenic resources

Purpose and Need

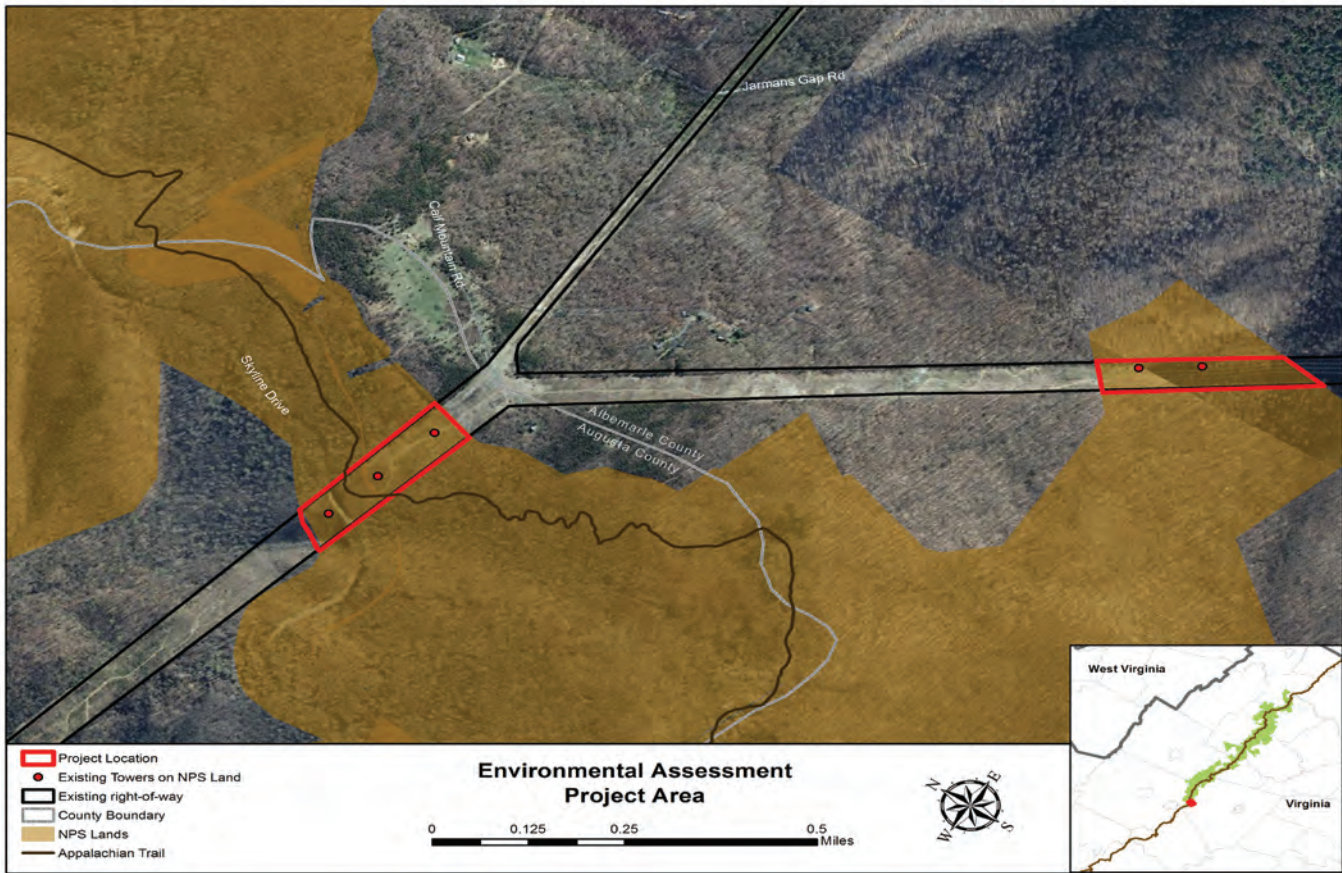
The purpose component of an EA broadly describes the goals that the NPS intends to fulfill through taking action, and the need component explains why taking action at this time is necessary. The purpose of and need for action by the NPS is distinct from that of the applicant.

As explained above, DVP asserts that its action is needed to increase capacity of the line, continue to provide reliable electrical service to customers served by the line, and maintain compliance with the NERC Reliability Standards. The NPS’ action is needed because DVP has requested permission to rebuild some of its transmission facilities on park land. The purpose of NPS’ action is to determine how best to respond to DVP’s request while protecting park resources and experiences.

Project Timeline

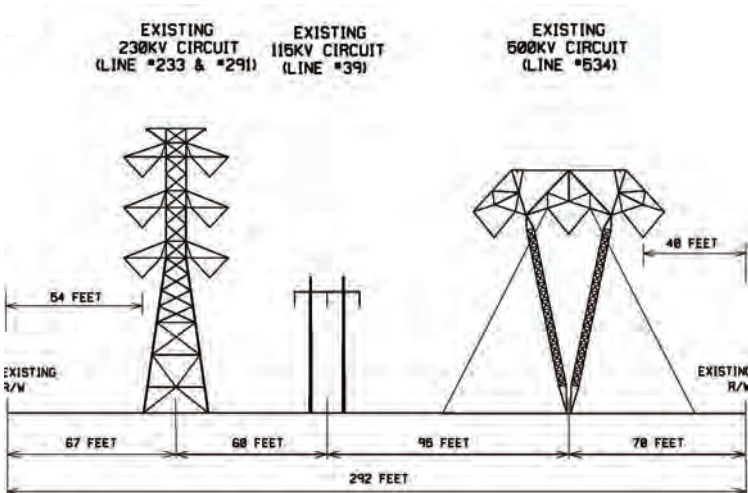
Fall 2012	Public scoping period
Winter 2013	Internal review of EA
Spring 2013	Release of public EA
Fall 2013	Decision announced

Project Area

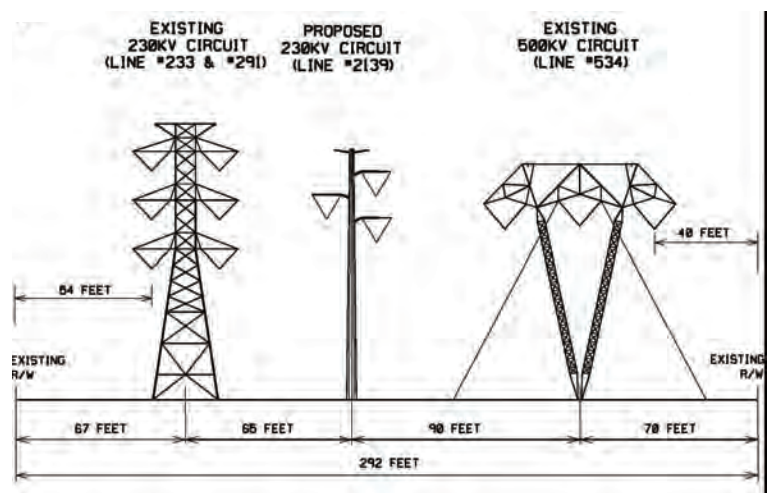


Preliminary Tower Design

Existing ROW Configuration



Proposed ROW Configuration



How to Comment...

There are several ways to provide comments:

- Submit comments electronically at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/SHEN>
- Submit written comments by mail to:
Morgan Elmer
Attn: Doods - Bremo Transmission Line Crossing
NPS - Denver Service Center
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

The comment period will be open until November 30, 2012.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment -- including your personal identifying information -- may be made publicly available at any time.



Doods-Bremo Transmission Line Crossing
Shenandoah National Park
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Luray, VA 22835